

Claims:

Claims 1-42 have been canceled.

43. (new) A method of providing status information of a user to a requestor comprising:

prior to receiving a request at a central location to facilitate establishing a communication between a device associated with the requestor and one of multiple communication devices

storing information about multiple communication devices associated with the user, wherein the multiple communication devices include at least a first device and a second device, wherein the first device is a mobile phone and wherein the second device is a computer, a landline phone, or a set top box, and wherein the first device is associated with a first network and the second device is associated with a second, different network;

receiving at the central location status information regarding the multiple communication devices from the respective networks, wherein the status information includes status information other than, or in addition to, an indication of whether the multiple communication devices are on or off, and wherein the receiving of status information includes at least one of:

querying the first network or the second network for status information about at least one of the multiple communication devices associated with the user, and

receiving status information from at least one network element in the first network or the second network, wherein the at least one network element automatically provides to the central location status information about at least one of the multiple communication devices associated with the user; and;

in response to receiving a request at the central location to facilitate establishing a communication between the device associated with the requestor and

one of the multiple communication devices, selecting one of the communication devices based on the status information; and

providing the requestor with an identification of the selected communication device so that a communication can be established between the device associated with the requestor and the selected communication device.

44. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein the status information includes activity information of the communication devices.

45. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein the status information includes presence information of the communication device.

46. (new) The method of claim 43, further comprising evaluating user preference information associated with the communication devices in selecting the communication device.

47. (new) The method of claim 43, further comprising updating the stored status information regularly.

48. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein the different types of networks include at least two of an Internet, a telephone network, a cellular phone network and a video network.

49. (new) A method of identifying a communication path for establishing a communication session, the method comprising:

prior to receiving a request to facilitate establishing a communication between a device associated with a communication initiator and a device associated with an intended recipient,

at a central location, storing information about multiple communication devices associated with the intended recipient, wherein at least two

of the multiple communication devices are each associated with different respective networks in the multi-networked environment;
at the central location, receiving status information regarding the plurality of communication devices from respective networks, wherein the receiving of status information includes:
actively querying one or more of the networks in the multi-networked environment for status information that indicates information other than, or in addition to, whether the multiple communication devices are on or off, or
automatically receiving status information from at least one network element in the first network or the second network, wherein the at least one network element is configured to automatically provide to the central location status information about at least one of the multiple communication devices associated with the user, and;
at the central location, receiving a request for identifying a communication path for use in establishing the communication between the device associated with the communication initiator and a device associated with the intended recipient;
at the central location, in response to the received request, at least assisting in the selecting of a communication device at which the user can likely be reached, wherein the selection is based, at least in part, on an evaluation of the received status information; and
directing a call to the network to which the selected communication device belongs to enable a communication session to be established with the selected communication device.

50. (new) The method of claim 49 wherein the storing is performed through an Internet portal site by providing the intended recipient with a predetermined registration procedure to enroll in the service of the method.

51. (new) The method of claim 49 wherein the status information that indicates information other than, or in addition to, whether the multiple communication devices are on or off includes an indication of whether the multiple communication devices are currently on-line and when they were last active.

52. (new) In a multi-networked environment, a method of determining a communication device at which a user can likely be reached, the method comprising:

- prior to receiving a request to facilitate establishing a communication between a device associated with a communication initiator and one of multiple communication devices associated with the user,
- querying different types of networks in the multi-networked environment for status information, or automatically receiving the status information from network elements, wherein the status information pertains to at least two communication devices associated with the user including a first device and a second, different device, wherein the first device is associated with a first network in the multi-network environment, and wherein the second device is associated with a second, different network in the multi-networked environment;
- receiving the status information for the at least two communication devices, wherein the status information includes status information other than, or in addition to, an indication of whether the at least two communication devices are on or off; and
- in response to a receiving a request for establishing a communication session with one of the multiple communication devices, selecting a preferred communication device from the at least two communication devices based on the received status information.

53. (new) The method of claim 52 wherein the status information includes activity information associated with the communication devices.

54. (new) The method of claim 52 wherein the status information includes presence information associated with the communication devices.

55. (new) The method of claim 52 wherein the communication devices include at least two of a telephone, cellular phone, personal computer and set-top box.

56. (new) The method of claim 52 wherein the first network is an Internet, a telephone network, a cellular phone network, or a video network; and wherein the second network is a different type of network than the first network and is an Internet, a telephone network, a cellular phone network, or a video network.

57. (new) The method of claim 52 wherein the steps of querying, receiving, and selecting occur within an information system configured to communicate with the different types of networks in the multi-networked environment.

58. (new) The method of claim 52 wherein the steps of querying, receiving, and selecting occur within an information system configured to communicate with the different types of networks in the multi-networked environment; and wherein the information system is a unified presence information system.

59. (new) An apparatus for identifying a communication path for establishing a communication session between a requestor and a user, the apparatus comprising:

means for storing information about multiple communication devices associated with the user, wherein the multiple communication devices include at least a first device and a second device, wherein the first device is a mobile phone and wherein the second device is a computer, a landline phone, or a set top box, wherein the first device is associated with a first network and the second device is associated with a second network, and wherein the storing is performed prior to receiving a request to facilitate establishing a communication between a device associated with the requestor and one of multiple communication devices associated with the user;

means for receiving status information regarding the multiple communication devices from the respective networks, wherein the status information includes status information other than, or in addition to, an indication of whether the multiple communication devices are on or off, and wherein the means for receiving includes at least one of:

means for querying at least the first network and the second network for status information about at least one of the multiple communication devices associated with the user, wherein the querying is performed prior to receiving the request to facilitate establishing the communication between the device associated with the requestor and one of multiple communication devices associated with the user, and

means for receiving status information from at least one network element in the first network or the second network, wherein the at least one network element automatically provides status information about at least one of the multiple communication devices associated with the user;

means for selecting one of the communication devices based on the status information; and

means for providing the requestor with an identification of the selected communication device so that a communication can be established between the device associated with the requestor and the selected communication device.

60. (new) An apparatus for identifying a communication path for establishing a communication session between a requestor and a user, the apparatus comprising:

a network interface configured for

querying at least one of different types of networks in the multi-networked environment for status information, wherein the status information pertains to at least two communication devices associated with the user, including a first device and a second device, wherein the first device is associated with a first network in the multi-network

environment, and wherein the second device is associated with a second network in the multi-networked environment;

receiving the status information for the at least two communication devices, wherein the status information includes status information other than, or in addition to, an indication of whether the at least two communication devices are on or off; and

wherein the querying and receiving occurs independently of receiving a request for establishing a communication session between the requestor and the user,

a storage block configured for storing the received status information; and

a processor configured for selecting a preferred communication device from the set of multiple communication devices based on the received status information, wherein the processor performs the selecting in response to receiving a request for establishing a communication session with the user.